hours for private PCOs are 12 hours i.e. 0800 hr. to 2000 hours. However they may remain opened beyond these time limits. This applies to private PCOs outside Delhi Gate Exchange also.

(e) Though Delhi has already achieved the 8th plan target of having one PCOs for every 500 persons, provision of additional PCOs is a major thrust area.

Steps to Improve the image of Delhi Police

898. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last couple of months, a number of Police Officers in Delhi were caught red-handed while accepting bribes or on charge of dereliction of duty, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what steps Government are contemplating to improve the image of Delhi Police in the light of these acts of corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) Yes, Sir. During the period from 1.9.95 to 31.10.95, nine police officials were caught red-handed, accepting bribes. Seven criminal cases have been registered against these nine police officials. Besides, this, administrative action against sixteen police officials for dereliction of duty during the above period has been taken.

(b) With a view to curbing involvement of policemen in crime and generating public confidence, the Delhi Police has been taking deterrent action against errant officials. This include disciplinary proceedings in all cases where policemen are found involved in crimes. Besides, Delhi Police are revising the training syllabus, both of initial training and refresher courses, to bring about the required behavioural changes among policemen. Briefing is also being given by senior officers to the members of the force through Sampart Sabhas. Emphasis is being placed on accessibility of senior officers to the public. A close watch is being kept on the conduct of policemen with doubtfull integrity, by the Vigilance Branch and the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Progress of Sethu Samudran Project

899. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made in respect of Sethu Samudran Project submitted by Tamil Nadu Government which involves excavation of a canal to connect Palk Strait with the Gulf of Mannar to facilitate passage of ships; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in approving the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Due to financial constraints the Sethu Samudran Project could not be included in the 8th Five Year Plan.

Faulty Radio Telephone Service in Tamil Nadu

900. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that radio telephone set up in several villages of Tamil Nadu have failed because of the poor audio-quality; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to provide telephones to all the villages in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the radio telephone set up in the villages of Tamil Nadu have been maintained in good condition and the audio quality is satisfactory.